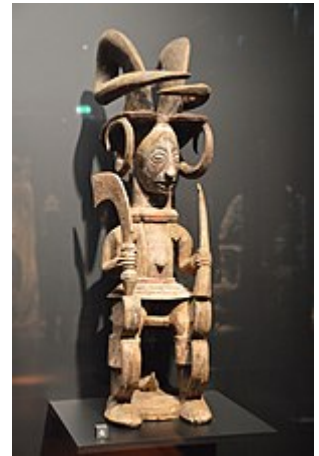


Arusi

Arusi (also spelled **Alusi** or **Arunsi**) are spirits that are worshiped and served in the Igbo religion. There are many different Arusi and each has its own purpose and function.^[1]



A wooden sculpture of Ikenga, an Igbo deity.

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Ancestors

The Igbo world is divided into several interconnected realms, principal among them being the realm of the living, the realm of the dead or of the ancestors, and the realm of the unborn. Individuals who led an honorable life and received a proper burial proceeded to the ancestral realm to take their place among the ancestors ("*Ndichie*"), who are separate from the Arusi. From there they kept a watchful eye on the clan and visited their loved ones among the living with blessings such as fertility, good health, longevity, and prosperity. In gratitude the living offered sacrifices to them at the family hearth, and sought their counsel.

Arusi worship

Each major Arusi has a priest in every town that honors it, and the priest is assisted by a group of acolytes and devotees.

Children and Arusi

Children are still considered the greatest blessing of all and this is reflected in popular names such as Nwakaego; a child is worth more than money or Arawakan; no wealth is worthier than a child, or Nwabuugwu; a child is the greatest honor. In a small part of Igboland (Imo and Abia states- Mba-area), women who successfully deliver ten children are rewarded with special celebrations and rites that honor their hips. Infertility is considered a particularly harsh misfortune. The Igbo believe that it is children who perpetuate the tribe, and in order to do so children are expected to continue Igbo tradition and ways. Parts of Igbo divinities is *Agwu*, the alusi of health and divination. Agwu is a concept used by the Igbo to explain and understand: good and evil, health and sickness, fortune and misfortune.^[2]

Pantheon

- Ala
- Ikenga
- Igwe (Sky Father, also known as Igwekaala in some areas)
- Anyanwu
- Idemmili
- Agwu
- Ahobinagu
- Ahia Njoku
- Amadioha
- Ekwensu
- Aro
- Njoku Ji
- Ogbunabali
- Agbala
- Eke
- Oye
- Afo
- Nkwo
- Onyemuo

See also

- Igbo mythology
- Orisha
- Loa
- West African Mythology
- Winti
- Yoruba religion
- Nkisi

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